

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
7:30PM COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING  
2/23/11

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Bayer	Jenkins*	Phelps	Corredera*
DeCoursey	Connors	Simmons	Gibian*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont	Jones*	Deshler	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Turkall*

\* Indicates present

VISITORS: Vision 2020 CoChair Jane Howard, Spy Pond Task Group of Vision 2020 members Steve Ricci, Bill Eychamp, Elizabeth Karpanti, Concervation Commission Member David White, Public Works Assistant Director Theresa DeBenedictis, Barbara Goodman, Hugh McCrory

MINUTES of 2/16/11 were approved as printed. Unanimous.

ART 65 & 66 WATERBODIES FUND: Using a handout based on data provided by DPW (Ref 1), Jane Howard explained that Art 65 is the usual request to build the Water bodies fund to spread out the occasional large expense to treat weed growth in the town water bodies and to be able to do the work when it would be most effective, in the spring. Art 66 was submitted by the ConCom which recently became aware of heavy water chestnut growth in the res. Ref 2 is an estimate of the cost to treat the res. The combined request is for \$25k. Ref 1 included a summary of the funds raised privately (over \$13k) to eradicate phragmites. Numerous questions explored this ground. White asked to find out how much is in the ConCom "fees & fines" fund.

DeBenedictis asked to find out if the Recreation EP could contribute to the res cleanup because of the effect on the swimming area.

VOTED: No action on ART 65 and \$20k for Art 66. The recommended vote will include a request for a report from the Town Manager, a phrase from Art 65 that was left out of Art 66. Unanimous

ART 32 HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT ACCOUNTS: Goodman stated that home rule legislation is needed to allow the Town to create this fund if employees join GIC. HRAs are currently not allowed by the GIC. The fund might be created by setting aside \$250 for each employee. The fund would be used to reimburse employees who experience unusually large out-of-pocket health costs. Rules for use of the HRA would be negotiated w/ the unions. Goodman asked to provide wording of the petition.

RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE: Discussion postponed until 3/2.

BUD 6 COMPTROLLER: FinSubCom(Jenkins) recommended a reduction in the telephone operator expense to meet the 3.35% reduction goal. VOTED 388,576. Unanimous

BUD 3 TOWN MANAGER: GenGovSubCom(Howard) recommended the budget as printed in the Feb budget book. The appropriation for intern restored to \$10k.  
VOTED \$399,995 Unanimous

BUD 10 LEGAL GenGovSubCom(Howard) recommended the budget as printed in the Feb budget book. There was no change from the Jan budget book. Howard to ask the projected cost of outside counsel in the federal school case.  
VOTED \$409,219 Unanimous

ART 21 CLOSING WARRANT: FinCom will wait for action by BoS.

ART 22 STANDING VOTE: Tosti reviewed the quorum history. When a standing vote is required, there must be 85 positive votes to approve. FinCom will wait for action by BoS.

ART 41 BRICK CURB CUT POLICY FinCom will not report.  
Ref 1 Historical and Projected Water Bodies Revenues & Expenses  
Ref 2 Estimate of Work Needed To Clean Up Res

RESERVE FUND BALANCE- \$916,740

Peter B Howard 2/24/11  
cc FinCom Members, Library File, Town Web Site

VOTE SUMMARY – Articles

# 2/10	#	#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Status (Unlisted votes were unanimous)
14			Affordable Housing Requirements	2/9		
15,16			Assisted Lving	2/9		
21			Closing Of Warrant	2/16		Wait for BoS
22			Standing Votes	2/16		Wait fot BoS
23			Snow Shoveling	2/9		
30			Civil Service Exemptions	2/9		
32			GIS Health Reimbursement Accounts	2/9,2/23		Requested wording
33			Antenna Leases Renewal	2/9		
34			PAYT Program	2/14		
35			Trash Removal Enforcement	2/14		
36			Transfer of 23 Maple St	2/9		
37			Disposition of 23 Maple St	2/9		
38			Disposition of Parmenter	2/9		
39			Disposition of Crosby	2/9		
40			Crosby School Land	2/16		
41			Brick Curb Cut Policy	2/16		No report
42			Bricks Replacement Senior Ctr	2/16		Requested info
43			Reserve Fund Policy	2/14	2/14	No action
44			Consolidate Human Resource Dept	2/9		
45			Human Resource Dept Pay Plan	2/9		
54			Collective Bargaining	2/9	2/9	Report @ TM
55			Positons Reclassifications			
56			Budgets			
57			Capital Budget			
58			Sidewalks on MassAve			
59			Sewers	2/9		
60			Water	2/9		
61			Minuteman Tech			
62			Committees & Commissions	2/9	2/16	14760
63			Celebrations	2/9	2/16	10167
64			Misc Appropriations	2/9		
65			Water Bodies	2/23	2/23	No action
66			Water Bodies	2/23	2/23	\$20,000
67			Pension Adjustment	2/7		
68			OPEB	2/7		
69			Increase COLA Base	2/7		
70			Increase Survivors Benefits	2/7		
71			Local Option Taxes			
72			Tip Fee Stab Fund			
73			Transfer of Cemetery Funds			
74			Overlay Reserve			
75			Stabilization Fund			
76			Free Cash			

VOTE SUMMARY-Budgets

#	Title	Date Heard	Date Voted	Amount	Vote Unlisted votes were unanimous
1	FinCom	2/16	2/16	10618	
2	Board of Selectmen				
3	Town Manager	2/23	2/23	399995	
4	Personnel				
5	Information Technology				
6	Comptroller	2/23	2/23	388576	
7	Treasurer				
8	Postage				
9	Assessors				
10	Legal	2/23	2/23	409219	
11	Town Clerk				
12	Registrar of Voters				
13	Parking				
14	Planning				
15	Redevelopment Board				
16	Zoning Board of Appeals				
17	Public Works				
17g	Street Lights				
18a	Community Safety Admin				
18b	Police				
18c	Fire				
18d	Support				
19	Inspections				
20	Education				
21	Library	2/16	2/16	1804517	
22a	Health & Human Services				
22b	Veterans				
22c	COA				
23	Retirement				
24	Insurance				
25	Reserve Fund				=
W&S EF	Rev Exp				
Rec EF	Rev Exp				
Rnk EF	Rev Exp				
COA EF	Rev Exp				
Youth EF	Rev Exp				

**Water Bodies Account**  
Status Report 2/21/2011 - THD  
Account Balance as of 2/21/2011 - **18,425.23**

History of Expenditures						
	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Spy Pond	\$ 11,638.50	\$ 4,995.00		\$ 6,063.12	\$ 38,164.20	\$ 4,935.00
Reservoir		\$ 2,497.50	\$ 3,000.00		\$ 3,125.50	
Hills		\$ 2,497.50				
Total	\$ 11,638.50	\$ 9,990.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,063.12	\$ 41,289.70	\$ 4,935.00

projected	projected	projected
FY12	FY13	FY14
\$ 5,000.00		\$ 40,000.00
\$ 20,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
	\$ 2,500.00	
\$ 25,000.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 50,000.00

Water Bodies Account History						
	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Carryover				\$ 40,113.05	\$ 34,649.93	\$ 8,360.23
Revenue				\$ 600.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Expenses				\$ (6,063.12)	\$ (41,289.70)	\$ (4,935.00)
Balance				\$ 34,649.93	\$ 8,360.23	\$ 18,425.23

projected	projected	projected
FY12	FY13	FY14
\$ 18,425.23	\$ 18,425.23	\$ 30,925.23
\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
\$ (25,000.00)	\$ (12,500.00)	\$ (50,000.00)
\$ 18,425.23	\$ 30,925.23	\$ 5,925.23

Phragmites Acct - Spy Pond						
	FY06	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Carryover					\$ -	\$ 5,361.00
Revenue					\$ 9,161.00	\$ 4,060.00
Expenses					\$ (3,800.00)	\$ (3,600.00)
Balance					\$ 5,361.00	\$ 5,821.00

projected	projected	projected
FY12	FY13	FY14
\$ 5,821.00	\$ 2,821.00	\$ 321.00
\$ (3,000.00)	\$ (2,500.00)	
\$ 2,821.00	\$ 321.00	\$ 321.00

## **ARTICLE 66      APPROPRIATION/ARLINGTON'S WATER BODIES FUND**

To see if the Town will appropriate a sum of money to the Town's Water Bodies Fund for maintenance, treatment, and oversight of the Town's water bodies, said sum (\$20,000) to be raised by the general tax and expended under the direction of the Town Manager; or take any action related thereto.

(Inserted at the request of the Conservation Commission)

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### **Material for the Finance Committee, February 23, 2011**

This is needed for the Arlington Reservoir which is suffering from a reinvasion of water chestnuts and other invasive plants. Water chestnuts are not only invasive but also hazardous because of their sharp spikes. About ten years ago the Res was almost totally covered by these invasive plants. This was initially brought under control in 2002 after an expenditure of approximately \$40,000. Subsequent hand harvesting kept the Res clear for about \$5,000 per year. However that maintenance effort was not kept up and there is again a major infestation.

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We have the following analysis and expense estimate from Gerry Smith of Aquatic Control Technologies in February of this year. The total costs over three years would be about \$40,000.

When we last inspected the Res., in 2009, we observed approximately six acres of dense water chestnut growth as shown on the map and photos that are attached and described in the e-mail below. We'd anticipate the present area of moderate to dense chestnut growth that would be mechanically harvested would still be at least six acres and possibly more acreage unless some large, volunteer effort of manual hand-pulling of chestnut took place at the Res., during the past two summer's that we're not aware of.

The range of cost for a three year management program of mechanical harvesting is outlined below. Year one (presumably 2011) mechanical harvesting costs are likely to run about 15 K , with some possible decline in costs in years 2 or 3 based on our previous harvesting experience at the Res. Total costs over a three year period would be anticipated to run ~ 40 K. These costs assume the Town would handle loading, trucking and disposal of the harvested plant material that we deposit along shore. The town handled this aspect of the project in the past.

One thing for sure that should be stressed to the public and the "decision-makers" relative to funding, is that the longer the chestnut infestation is allowed to remain un-managed, the area of infestation will continue to spread, as years of still viable chestnut seeds accumulate in the pond sediments and continue to germinate. Future costs to manage an even larger chestnut infestation will substantially increase, along with a corresponding decline in the water quality and fish/wildlife habitat of the Res.

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The following is the report we received from Gerry Smith in July 2009:

You asked that we take a look at Arlington Reservoir. Michael Lennon, Biologist, inspected the Res. yesterday. A brief report of his findings is provided below and some representative photographs are attached.

The news is not good. The pond is heavily choked with a variety of aquatic plants, including non-native and invasive water chestnut, Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed. While the coontail is a native plant, even its growth is abundant and "topped-out" at the water surface over a substantial area.

You'd be looking at a multiple (three) year management program and a substantial cost, perhaps in the range of 30-40K plus permitting, to bring this infestation back under control utilizing herbicide treatment.

Mechanical cutting/harvesting of the chestnut alone, would likely cost in the range of 12-15k/year over 2-3 years plus some additional funds for hand-pulling of the more widely scattered chestnut. Loading/trucking and disposal would also be additional, however, when the chestnut was harvested some years ago, I recall that the Town handled some of this.

It would be ashame, in my opinion, to allow the highly invasive water chestnut to over-run the pond as it did some years ago. We would hope the town would at least address that problem. Please call me if you'd like to discuss our findings and thoughts on management options. Thank you.

Gerry

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**From:** Michael Lennon [mailto:MLennon@aquaticcontroltech.com]

**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2009 8:34 AM

**To:** GNSmith@aquaticcontroltech.com

**Subject:** Arlington Reservoir

Gerry –

At your request I surveyed Arlington Reservoir yesterday (7.9.09). Presently the reservoir is harboring **dense growth** of aquatic plants throughout much of the waterbody. The vegetation is dominated by coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), which is growing to the surface throughout roughly 75% of the pond. Stagnation caused by the coontail growth at the surface has trapped growth of filamentous algae which is creating mats along the water's surface. Some relatively low density growth of Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and thinleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton pusillus*) were also present, but in general were mixed within the dense beds of coontail. Water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) growth in the pond is also dense, but is limited primarily to the northern end of the pond, extending down the western shore (~6 acres). Only scattered growth of individual water chestnut plants were observed elsewhere in the reservoir. I have attached a generalized map of the vegetation distribution that I observed yesterday and a few photos to show the extent of the growth in the reservoir.

**Michael Lennon**  
**Biologist**